



7217/62593

IN THE SPECIFICATION

~~X~~ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 22 as follows:

--As a portable audio-data playback apparatus, on the other hand, an apparatus using an optical disc or a magneto-optical disc with a diameter of about 64 mm has become popular in recent years. The portable audio-data playback apparatus converts an analog audio signal into a digital signal, compresses the digital signal by adoption of a compression technology known as ATRAC (Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding: Trademark) and stores the compressed signal into a magneto-optical disc. The portable audio-data playback apparatus offers a merit of no deterioration of the sound quality caused by the operations to convert the analog audio signal into the digital signal, compress the digital signal and store the compressed signal. There is also another merit of a random playback operation due to the fact that a disc is used as a recording medium.--

~~X~~ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 22 as follows:

--Also in the portable audio-data playback apparatus described above, once audio data has been recorded onto a

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magneto-optical disc, the playback operation is limited the range of the disc. That is to say, a random or general playback operation can not be carried out over a plurality of magneto-optical discs. It is thus necessary to replace a magneto-optical disc with several other magneto-optical discs in order to carry out a random playback operation from a plurality of magneto-optical discs or an operation to play back specified pieces of music. As a result, the user must always take a plurality of magneto-optical discs or optical discs with the portable audio-data playback apparatus.--

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 4 as follows:

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--It has been further proposed to use a hard-disc drive or a semiconductor memory as a recording or storage medium in the portable audio-data playback apparatus described above. The music server described above may be connected to the portable audio-data playback apparatus so that audio data stored in the music server can be transferred to the portable audio-data playback apparatus to be recorded or stored into the recording medium of the apparatus. Assume that the recording or storage capacity of the recording medium is 200 MB. In this case, it is

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no longer necessary for the user to carry a plurality of magneto-optical discs or optical discs. Of course, it is also unnecessary to replace a magneto-optical disc or an optical disc with another.--

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 15 as follows:

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--Fig. 8A shows a flowchart representing typical processes of a music server for processing to record musical data read out from a CD into a hard-disc drive at a high speed;--

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 19 as follows:

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--Fig. 8B shows a flowchart representing typical processes of an Internet server for processing to record musical data read out from a CD into a hard-disc drive at a high speed;--

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 2 as follows:

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--In the music server 50, musical data played back from the CD 55 is subjected to a compression-encoding process according to a predetermined technique such as the ATRAC method described

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earlier to produce compressed musical data, which is then recorded into the recording medium such as a hard disc. In the case of a hard disc with a storage capacity of 6 Gbyte, for example, about 1,000 pieces of music can be stored or recorded. A list of names of recorded or stored pieces of music is displayed typically on the display unit 53. The user is then capable of playing back any arbitrary piece of music selected from the list displayed on the display unit 53 to show the names of pieces of music recorded or stored in the hard disc. As a hard disc can be accessed at random, a large amount of musical data stored and recorded can be read out in arbitrary order and continuously played back by the music server 50.--

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 7 as follows:

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--The Internet server 60 also carries out a charging process to compute a fee for a service rendered to the user of the music server 50. When musical data played back from the CD 55 is recorded into a recording medium at a high transfer speed as described above, the music server 50 informs the Internet server 60 that such a recording operation is carried out at a high transfer speed. The Internet server 60 then carries out

processing to compute a recording fee to be charged to the user, allowing a CD to be selected or a piece of music to be selected from a CD and musical data to be recorded from the selected CD or the selected piece of music to be recorded from the CD at a high transfer speed.--

~~A7~~ ~~X~~ ✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 10 as follows:

--In accordance with the aforementioned transmission method adopted by the present invention, transmitted musical data is recorded into a storage medium employed in a destination of transmission and remains in a storage medium of a source of transmission but is put in a state of being irreproducible. This transmission operation is referred to as a move. By moving musical data in this way, a copy operation of musical data can be prevented from being carried out without limitation.--

~~A8~~ ~~X~~ ✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 22 as follows:

--The music server 50 may be provided with a WWW (World Wide Web) browser as an embedded application. By connecting the music server 50 provided with a WWW browser to the Internet server 60

using the communication line 61, the Internet can be searched for a variety of contents described typically in an HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) and any of the contents can then be displayed on the display unit 53.--

~~A9~~ ~~com~~ ✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 12 as follows:

~~A10~~ --By a communication between the music server 50 and the Internet server 60, the music server 50 can automatically acquire information such as the title of a CD 55 mounted on the music server 50 via the CD insertion unit 54 from the Internet server 60 through the communication line 61. Information such as a CD title acquired from the Internet server 60 is saved in the music server 50 and the saved information is displayed on the display unit 53 employed in the music server 50 when necessary.--

~~A11~~ ✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 21 as follows:

--The input operation unit 1 comprises typically a plurality of push-type and rotary-type operation keys and switches each actuated by an operation of any of these operation keys. As an alternative, the input operation unit 1 may also be

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implemented by a rotary-push-type key known as a jog dial or a touch panel on the LCD. Of course, the input operation unit 1 may adopt a switch mechanism, which reacts to a press operation. A signal representing an operation carried out on the input operation unit 1 is supplied to the CPU 8 by way of the bus 40. The CPU 8 generates a control signal for controlling the operation of the music server 50 on the basis of the signal received from the input operation unit 1. The music server 50 operates in accordance with the control signal generated by the CPU 8. --

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~~X~~ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 19 as follows:

--It should be noted that the technique adopted by the compression encoder 12 to change the compression speed is not limited to the method described above. For example, the compression speed can also be changed by switching the clock frequency of the compression encoder 12. As an alternative, the two compression speeds are implemented by two different pieces of hardware. As another alternative, musical data is compressed by the compression encoder 12 at the low processing speed by thinning the high-speed compression. --

~~X~~ ✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 7 as follows:

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--In a playback operation, musical data compressed and encoded by the compression encoder 12 and then recorded and stored in the HDD 10 is read out from the HDD 10 and supplied to a compression decoder 21 by way of the bus 40. The compression decoder 21 decodes and decompresses the compressed musical data read out from the HDD 10. The decoded and decompressed musical data is then supplied to a D/A converter 22 before being supplied to a terminal 24 by way of an amplifier 23. The data is then supplied to the speaker units 52L and 52R from the terminal 24 as music obtained as a result of the playback operation. It should be noted that, in the case of a stereo system which is not shown in Fig. 2, there are two routes from the D/A converter 22 to the terminal 24 by way of the amplifier 23. Of course, two terminals 24 are provided in the stereo system.--

~~X~~ ✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 37, line 11 as follows:

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--The input operation unit 102 comprises typically a plurality of push-type and rotary-type operation keys and switches each actuated by an operation of any of these operation

keys. As an alternative, the input operation unit 102 may also be implemented by a rotary-push-type key known as a jog dial or a touch panel on the LCD. Of course, the input operation unit 102 may adopt a mechanical switch mechanism, which reacts to a press operation. A signal representing an operation carried out on the input operation unit 102 is supplied to the CPU 105 by way of the bus 130. The CPU 105 generates a control signal for controlling the operation of the portable recording and playback apparatus 70 on the basis of the signal received from the input operation unit 102. The signal is generated by the input operation unit 102 to represent an operation carried out on an operation key of the input operation unit 102. The operation of the portable recording and playback apparatus 70 is switched and controlled in accordance with the control signal generated by the CPU 105. --

✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 41, line 2 as follows:

--As part of pre-processing prior to an operation to record musical data into the hard disc of the HDD 106, the musical data supplied thereto is temporarily stored into an audio DRAM 107 connected to the bus 130. The musical data is then read back

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from the DRAM 107 and supplied to a compression encoder 108 through the bus 130. The compression encoder 108 carries out a compression-encoding process on the musical data by adoption of an encoding algorithm equivalent to the encoding algorithm adopted by the compression encoder 12 employed in the music server 50. The compressed musical data completing the compression-encoding process in the compression encoder 108 is again supplied to the DRAM 107 to be stored temporarily therein once more. Finally, the compressed musical data is read out from the DRAM 107 and recorded into the hard disc of the HDD 106.--

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~~X~~ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 43, line 11 as follows:

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--In a playback operation, the compressed musical data is read out from the HDD 106 and supplied to a compression decoder 115 by way of the bus 130. The compression decoder 115 decodes and decompresses the compressed musical data read out from the HDD 106. The decoded and decompressed musical data is then supplied to a D/A converter 116 before being supplied to a terminal 118 by way of an amplifier 117. By mounting a headphone 72 on the terminal 118, the user is capable of enjoying the reproduced music. It should be noted that, in the case of a

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stereo system which is not shown in Fig. 5, there are provided two routes from the D/A converter 116 to the terminal 118 by way of the amplifier 117 for left and right (L and R) channels respectively. Of course, two terminals 118 are provided in the stereo system for the L and R channels respectively.--

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[✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 47, line 19 as follows:

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--Next, the operation of the information communication system having the configuration described above is explained. First of all, functions executed by the music server 50 as a standalone apparatus are described. Fig. 7 shows a flowchart representing typical processing carried out by the music server 50 to record musical data read out from the CD 55 mounted on the CD-ROM drive 9 onto a hard disc of the HDD 10.--

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[✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 51, line 8 as follows:

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--At the step S22, the TOC information of the CD 55 mounted on the CD-ROM drive 9 of the music server 50 with the user ID corresponding to the music server 50 is output to the Internet server 60. The CD 55 is a CD, from which data is to be

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transferred from the CD-ROM drive 9 of the music server 50 and to be recorded onto the hard disc of the HDD 10. The music server 50 also transmits high-speed-recording information indicating that high-speed recording is to be carried out to the Internet server 60 along with the TOC information.--

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~~✓~~ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 52, line 7 as follows:

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--At the next step S32, a charging process is carried out. To put it in detail, a recording fee is computed from information such as the number of pieces of music to undergo the high-speed recording. The fee can then be drawn from a bank account specified by the user using the user's credit-card number corresponding to the user ID cataloged in advance. The fee charging method is not limited to such a technique. Another technique to charge a recording fee to the user, where the charging process is performed on the music server 50 side, is conceivable. For example, the music server 50 may be provided with a function to read a prepaid card. In this case, the computed recording fee is transmitted to the music server 50, which draws the fee from the prepaid card. The recording fee may also be charged depending on contents of the CD 55 under the

Amend
control of the Internet server 60, which can be identified from the TOC information. It is also possible to prohibit an operation to record musical data read out from the CD 55 onto the hard disc of the HDD 10.--

✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 53, line 17 as follows:

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--If the music server 50 confirms reception of the charging information at the step S23 of the flowchart shown in Fig. 8A, the flow of the process goes on to a step S24 at which the charging information and other data are displayed on the display unit 53. At the next step S25, musical data is read out by the CD-ROM driver 9 from the CD 55 at a high speed and then subjected to a compression process in the compression encoder 12 also at a high compression speed. The compressed musical data output by the compression encoder 12 is then supplied to the HDD 10 to be stored onto the hard disc of the HDD 10. The step S25 corresponds to the step S15 of the flowchart shown in Fig. 7.--

✓ Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 59, line 8 as follows:

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--When pieces of compressed musical data are deleted from

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the HDD 106 automatically at the step S44, it is quite within the bounds of possibility that a piece of compressed musical data of importance to the user is erased from the HDD 106. In order to prevent a piece of compressed musical data of importance to the user from being erased, a warning message is displayed on the display unit 53 employed in the music server 50 or the LCD panel 120 of the portable recording and playback apparatus 70. The warning message may notify the user that an operation to delete a piece of compressed musical data automatically from the HDD 106 will be carried out or may be a list of pieces of compressed musical data to be deleted. In this case, a piece of compressed musical data will be deleted only if the deletion is approved by the user. As another alternative, the user selects a piece of compressed musical data from those on a list displayed on the display unit 53 employed in the music server 50 or the LCD panel 120 of the portable recording and playback apparatus 70.--

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 73, line 3 as follows:

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--At the next step S51, the program file stored in the HDD 10 is searched for a list of programs with an ID of 300 by the CPU 8. The flow of the processing then goes on to a step S52 to

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form a judgment as to whether or not the program file includes such a list of programs. If the program file does not include such a list of programs, the flow of the processing goes on to a step S53 at which a new list of programs with an ID of 300 is created in the program file stored in the HDD 10. After the new list of programs is created, the flow of the processing goes on to a step S54. If the program list includes such a list of programs, on the other hand, the flow of the processing goes on directly to the step S54. In this embodiment, when the program file does not include such a list of programs, a new list of programs is created in the program file stored in the HDD 10. However, it is also possible to adopt the following construction such that if the program list corresponding to the input ID of the apparatus 70 which can be transferred is created in advance in the HDD 10 of the music server 50, when the program list is not included in the program file as described above, transfer of the data may be prohibited as the CPU 8 makes a judgment that the transfer of the data to the apparatus 70 corresponding to the input ID is not permitted.--